

The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



Johnny Appleseed Would Be Proud New Plantings Add To Warrenton's Beauty

In the last two years, Town crews have been busy beautifying the Town with many new trees and other plants. More than 300 trees, 100 shrubs, 200 perennials and ornamental grasses have been planted.

Our first 100 trees planted in the Spring of 2002 included the use of "gator bags," which hold 20 gallons of water to keep each tree healthy. They were refilled weekly by our Public Works Department.

When the Main Street sidewalk renovation project began, we had to replace some of the trees along Main Street due to disease or construction. And the 5th Street parking lot was landscaped with unusual and native tree species like Cryptomeria and Sourwood.

The new Police Department on Carriage House Lane also got some fresh plantings; trees along the

street were added, as well as a forsythia hedge and loads of brightly blooming perennials and grasses.

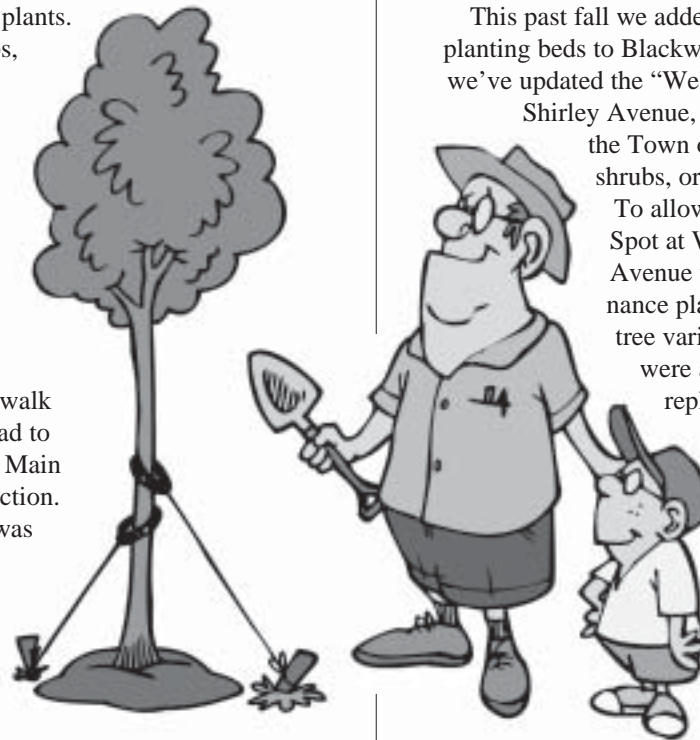
This past fall we added new tree varieties and perennial planting beds to Blackwell Road and Lee Street. And we've updated the "Welcome to Warrenton" signs on

Shirley Avenue, Frost Street, Route 17 and entering the Town on Lee Highway, adding new shrubs, ornamental grasses and perennials.

To allow for better visibility, the Adopt-a-Spot at Waterloo Street and Broadview Avenue was replanted with low maintenance plants and perennial flowers. New tree varieties like Ginkgo and Black Gum were added on the Route 29 corridor to

replace trees that had died, and in other areas to add screening. The Town also has planted 1,000 tulip bulbs, which should be a welcome sight in the spring.

New projects planned for spring include hanging planter baskets on Main Street and summer annuals planted around Town.



Continued on page 6.

It's Property Tax and Vehicle Decal Time Again

By now you should have received your "Fauquier County Declaration of Tangible Personal Property" form, and your "Town of Warrenton Decal Application."

When you get your forms, please take the time to verify all preprinted information to insure an accurate tax assessment. Then return them on or before March 15, 2004. Personal Property Declarations not postmarked by that date will be subject to a 10% late filing fee. Town of Warrenton vehicle decals must be displayed by March 15.

Please remember that all Town and county personal property taxes must be paid before a decal can be issued. If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Department at (540) 347-1102 or e-mail staff@warrentonva.gov.

The fee for Town vehicle decals is \$15.00 for cars and trucks and \$10.00 for motorcycles. Each citizen 65 or older is entitled to a single half price decal each year. ■

Six Tips To Keep Your Sewer System Happy

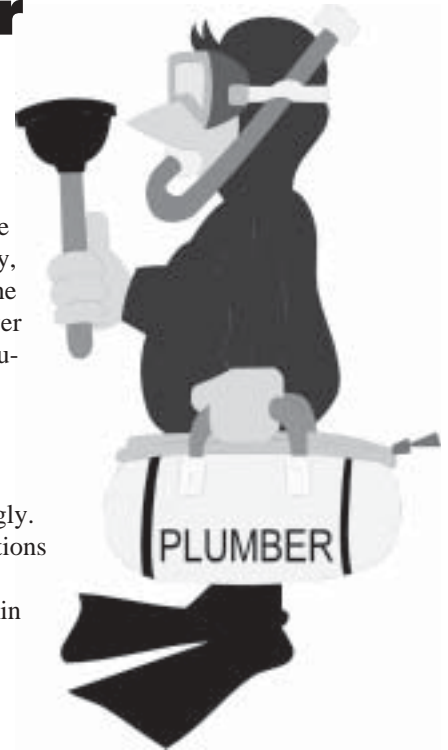
You can significantly reduce your plumbing and sewer problems simply by limiting what you pour down your drain.

- ◆ Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Too often when grease is washed into the plumbing system (usually through the kitchen sink or garbage disposal) it will stick to the inside of sewer pipes. This can block pipes and cause sewage to back up into your home. Instead, pour grease into an empty can or jar and put it in your refrigerator. When the grease solidifies, dispose of it in the trash.
- ◆ Use your garbage disposal sparingly. Never use your garbage disposal as a substitute for the trash can. Scrape grease and food scraps into the trash for disposal. Be especially careful with pasta, potatoes, and other starchy foods. Starch and water make paste, which can plug pipes. Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the strainers into the trash for disposal.
- ◆ Never flush baby diapers down the toilet. Even if large objects like this make it through your sewer pipes, they can cause blockages in Town sewer mains. This can cause sewage to back up in your neighbors' homes as well as yours.
- ◆ Never plant trees over your sewer service line. Roots are the leading cause of service line blockages. If you have any roots in your sewer service line, the grease, food waste and large objects just mentioned are even more likely to be trapped and cause blockages.

◆ Never dump kitty litter down the drain. Many of these products contain clay, which will narrow the opening of your sewer pipe, and may eventually plug it.

◆ Use sewer pipe cleaning chemicals carefully and sparingly. Follow label instructions closely to avoid dangerous fumes, skin and eye injury, and pipe and fixture damage. Proper care of your home sewer pipes will decrease the need for chemicals. Fats, oils and greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waist line; they're bad for sewers, too.

The maintenance of internal plumbing and sewer service lines is the responsibility of the property owner. The Town is responsible for maintenance of sewer mains only. For water or sewer related questions, contact Utilities Technician Larry Oliver at (540) 347-1101. ■



Time To Renew Your BPOL

If you're a business and have a physical location within the Town of Warrenton's corporate limits, you must have a "Business, Professional, Trade or Occupational License," often referred to as a BPOL.

The license period is June 1 of each year through May 31 of the following year. The Town's Finance Department recently mailed renewal applications to each registered Town business. Please take the time to review any preprinted information on the form, making any corrections or changes necessary. You must also provide your 2003 calendar year gross receipts and

return your application to Town Hall by March 1, 2004 to avoid a 10% late filing penalty.

Once you have returned the BPOL renewal form, you will receive a bill in early April for the license fee due. This amount must be paid by June 30, 2004 to avoid a 10% interest and late payment penalty.

If you do not have a BPOL, or have questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Finance Department at (540) 347-1102 or visit the Town's web site at <http://www.warrentonva.gov> for further information. If you need additional time to file, or did not receive your renewal application, please give us a call. ■





Historic District Register



ARB Launches “Historic District Register”

Welcome to the first edition of the **Historic District Register**, a newsletter for property owners and others interested in Warrenton’s acclaimed Historic District!

In this and future editions of the Register, our aim will be to provide helpful and interesting information about owning an older home, as well as information relevant to the Historic District generally.

Importantly, the Register represents the first of several new initiatives on behalf of the Warrenton Architectural Review Board to improve how the ARB provides services to property owners in the Historic District. You’ll be hearing more specifics about these initiatives in the upcoming months, but we thought we’d highlight several of them here:

◆ Early this spring, the ARB will hold its first “Community Meeting.” We intend to provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the Historic District and the ARB in person, as well as to raise issues and concerns directly with the Town and the ARB. Look for a specific date and place in the newspaper and in the next edition of the Town Crier.

◆ In an effort to enhance your access to information regarding the Historic District, we have created a website specifically pertaining to the Historic District. Although it’s in skeleton form at the moment, look for information such as the Historic District Guidelines, applications, meeting agendas, and minutes, in the upcoming weeks. You can access the website now through the Town of Warrenton’s home page at www.warrentonva.gov. Also, we are working to provide an e-mail contact so you can reach the ARB’s Town liaisons electronically.

◆ After a lapse of time, we are looking forward to re-instituting the Historic District Awards Program. The awards recognize the most outstanding efforts by Historic District property owners in restoring and preserving their properties consistent with the Historic District Guidelines.

◆ In addition to these near-term initiatives, ARB members have prioritized several longer-term goals for the upcoming year, including revising the application process for obtaining certificates of appropriateness, procuring economic hardship relief in certain circumstances, and creating the ARB’s first Comprehensive Plan for the Historic District.

Finally, as a reminder, please keep in mind that the ARB generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The community always is invited to attend these public meetings. Anyone with an interest in the Historic District is encouraged to participate when possible. ■

Does Your Project Require ARB Approval?

With the recent weather there’s little doubt that we’re in the middle of winter. But your thoughts may already be on the spring and summer, and the projects that lie ahead. As you plan the renovations and other alterations to your Historic District property, you should consider whether you need to seek approval from the ARB, and when to time the process. Here are some suggestions on obtaining the necessary approvals from the Town and the ARB.

First, in many instances, you will want to contact the Town to determine whether ARB approval is even necessary. In many instances, your plan may not require review, such as when you seek to change a paint color. Or the Town may be able to approve your proposal administratively without requiring you to appear before the ARB. An example of this is when you replace “in-kind” (meaning the same) materials and details. When in doubt, contact the Town for advice.

Second, if you need to appear before the ARB, your first

Continued on page 4.



ARB APPROVAL, continued from page 3.

step will be to complete an application for a "Certificate of Appropriateness." These applications are readily available in Town offices and will be available on the Town's website soon. Please follow the instructions and be as complete as possible. Larger projects, such as an addition, will require more details on materials and drawings than a small project. You may ask Town staff to look at your application to decide if it appears complete. Also, please keep in mind that certificates of appropriateness are due by the second Tuesday of each month.

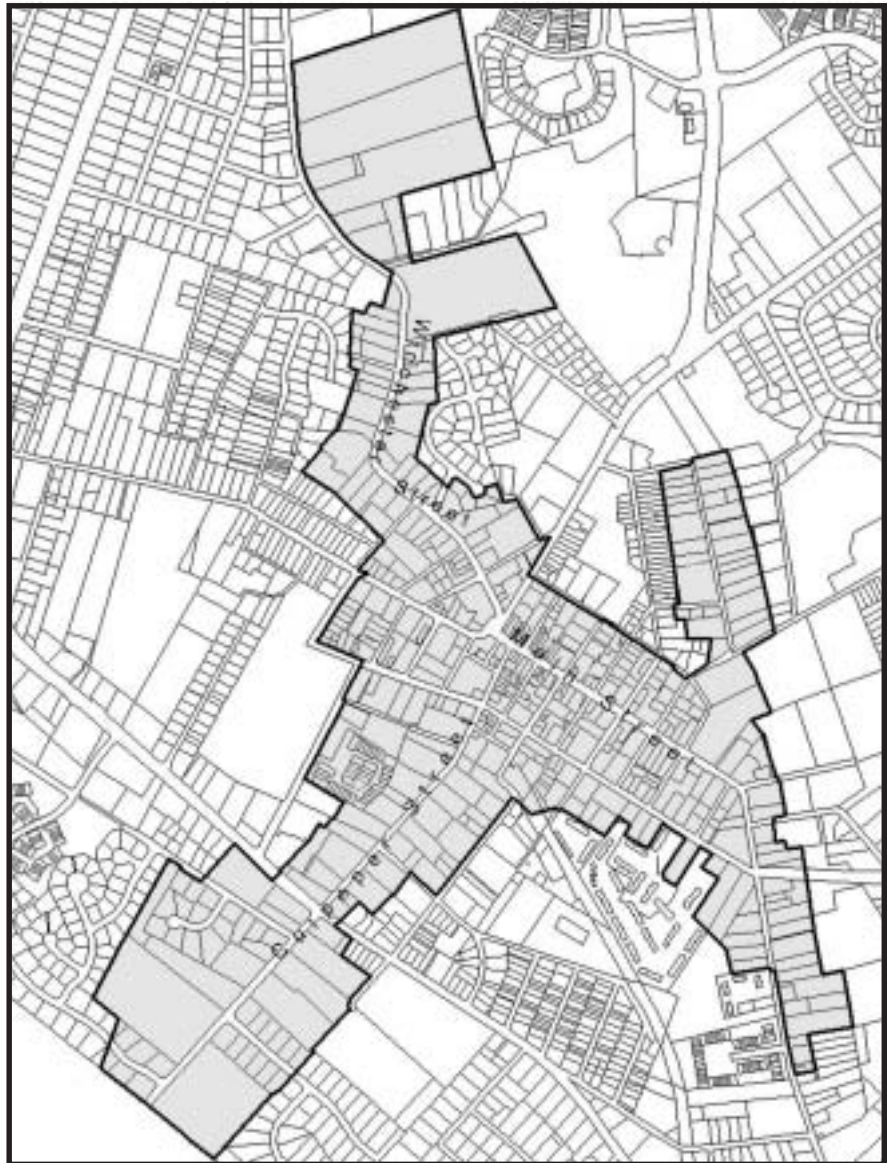
Third, once your application is complete, you will be put on the agenda for the next ARB meeting. Prior to the meeting, individual board members may contact you with questions, or to visit your property. At the meeting, you

will be asked to describe what you plan to do, and may be asked some questions. The current ARB members are going to great lengths to make these meetings casual and comfortable for applicants.

The vast majority of applications are approved in the first appearance before the ARB, although frequently the ARB may discuss certain modifications or conditions with you. Sometimes applications are tabled until the following month, if there is a need to do some more research, obtain more information or think about a suggestion. In the event your application is tabled, the ARB works hard to ensure that, whenever possible, all applications are decided upon within two meetings. ■

The Warrenton Historic District

Warrenton's Historic District includes much of Old Town Warrenton. This map shows the area in rough detail. For a closer view, go to the Town's website at www.warrentonva.gov.



New "Circuit Rider" Bus Hits the Road

Bigger isn't always better, but when it comes to public transportation it is. The Town of Warrenton recently got a bigger "Circuit Rider" bus, a result of the growing popularity of the local transit service.

It was a big day in Warrenton on Thursday, February 26. At a 10 a.m. ceremony at Town Hall, Virginia Regional Transit presented the keys to the new bus to the Town of Warrenton. Virginia Regional Transit is the company that operates the Circuit Rider.

With the acquisition of the new bus, an older, smaller bus was retired. The larger bus can carry 20 seated ambulatory passengers or 16 ambulatory and two wheelchair passengers. It also sports a bicycle rack.

The Town of Warrenton secured the funding for the \$60,000 bus, working with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Virginia Regional Transportation Association, and the Federal Transit Administration. Of the total cost, 75 percent was funded from governmental sources, and the rest was generated by an advertisement on the rear of the bus.

Warrenton has a partnership arrangement with Virginia Regional Transit to operate the Circuit Rider; the Town provides the maintenance and fuel for the bus. Each year Fauquier Hospital and the Town make cash contributions to support 25% of the operating costs. The Federal Transit Administration and The Virginia Department of

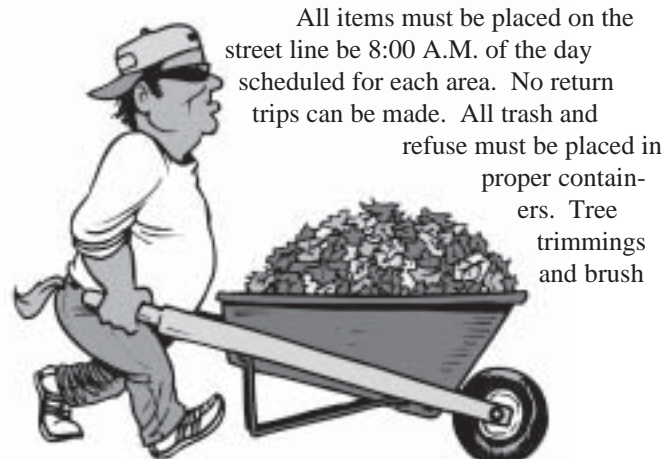
Rail and Public Transportation provide the remaining operating costs, which total \$110,000 annually.

The Circuit Rider bus runs Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding major holidays. On Mondays citizens ride free; Tuesday through Saturday it's only 50 cents per ride. Citizens wishing to utilize the Circuit Rider service may call (540) 341-3464 to obtain route information and other details. ■



It's Almost Time for Spring Cleaning!

Spring Clean-Up Week for the Town of Warrenton is scheduled for the week of April 19th through 23rd, 2004. Town trucks will provide extra collections in all residential areas to pick up trash, refuse and other items that cannot be handled on the regular weekly schedule.



must be placed separately. Small clippings from bushes or shrubs should be bagged and placed with regular refuse. Tree trimmings and brush cut by tree companies and contractors will not be picked up by Town crews; it is the responsibility of the contractor/company doing the work. All metal must be separated from wood and placed separately. Dirt, rocks, sod, old stumps and large logs will not be picked up.

Regular household refuse and recycling will be picked up as usual on the regularly scheduled days, and should be placed separately from clean-up items.

Any item containing Freon (refrigerator, air conditioner, dehumidifier, etc.) must be drained of Freon (with certification of drainage) or there will be a ten dollar (\$10) landfill charge that must be paid at the time of pick-up. Items that have been drained must have certification attached. To have an item picked up that has not been drained, contact Public Works ahead of time to make arrangements to have the item and the landfill fee picked up at the same time. Please call the Public Works Department at (540) 347-1858. ■



Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.

Economic Development	347-6574
Finance Department	347-1102
Inspections	347-2405
Maintenance Shop	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief	347-1105
Police Station	347-1107
Non-emergency	347-1100
Emergency	911
Planning and Zoning	347-2405
Recycling	347-1858
Sewage Plant	347-1104
Town Hall	347-1101
Town Manager	347-4505
Utilities	347-6574
Water Bills	347-2678
Water Plant	347-1103
TTD/TTY	1-800-828-1120

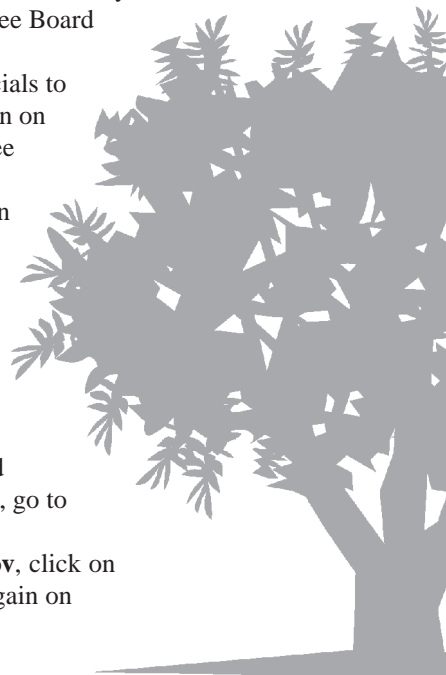
**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency
347-1100**

JOHNNY APPLESEED, continued from front page.

The Town has worked closely with the Warrenton Tree Board and local horticultural professionals and officials to get the best information on what to plant. The Tree Board also has been working with the Town Planning Commission on revisions to the landscape ordinances, which will be updated and changed in 2004.

For additional information on the species we planted and where they are located, go to our website

www.warrentonva.gov, click on "Public Works" and again on "Trees." ■



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P.O. Drawer 341
Warrenton, VA 20188-0341



The Town Crier

is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform citizens of the major events which affect our government and community.

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